

**Delaware Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
November 17, 2010**

**Attendees:**

Tricia Arndt, DE Coastal Programs  
Dave Carter, DE Coastal Programs  
Richard Collins, Positive Growth Alliance  
Sarah Cooksey, DE Coastal Programs  
Mark Davis, DE Dept. of Agriculture  
Barbara DeHaven, DE Economic Development Office  
James Ford III, City of Lewes  
Andrea Godfrey, Office of Management and Budget  
Brenna Goggin, DE Nature Society  
Constance Holland, DE Office of State Planning Coordination  
Lisa Jones, Jones Farm

Roger Jones, the Nature Conservancy  
Michael Kirkpatrick, DE Dept. of Transportation  
Susan Love, DE Coastal Programs  
Bill Lucks, DE Realtor's Association  
Robert McCleary, DE Dept. of Transportation  
Rick Perkins, DE Div. of Public Health  
Gene Reed, DE Insurance Commissioner's Office  
Keith Rudy, Homebuilder's Assoc. of DE  
Bob Scarborough, DE Coastal Programs  
Chris Summerfield, University of DE  
Pam Thornburg, DE Farm Bureau  
Chad Tolman, DE League of Women Voters  
Kelly Valencik, DE Coastal Programs

**Materials Distributed:**

Agenda  
Draft Adaptation Plan Process diagram  
Advisory Committee Member Contact list  
SLR Adaptation Plan one-page summary  
Delaware Coastal Programs SLR Project Compendium, October 2010  
SLR Inundation Maps one-page summary  
Coastal Sensitivity to Sea-Level Rise: A Focus on the Mid-Atlantic Region trifold brochure

\*all materials distributed available online:

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/DESLRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

**Presentations Given:**

*Basic Concepts of Sea Level Rise and Its Effects* - Dr. Robert Scarborough, Research Coordinator  
*Setting the Stage for Sea Level Rise Planning* - David Carter, Program Manager  
*The Role of the Advisory Committee in Sea Level Rise Planning* - Susan Love, Planner

\*copies of presentations are available online:

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/DESLRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

## Action Items:

- **Delaware Coastal Programs** will work with Secretary O'Mara to invite each county and members of the General Assembly to participate on the Committee.
- **Advisory Committee Members** will review and provide comments on the draft Adaptation Plan Process.
- **Delaware Coastal Programs** staff will arrange for FEMA process presentation

## Key Discussion Points:

### *Scope of Adaptation Plan*

It was noted that information provided in the presentations focused more on the east coast of Delaware and on communities close to the Delaware Bay and River. It was confirmed that the adaptation plan would address the entire State of Delaware, not just the areas or communities specifically mentioned as examples in the presentations.

A question was asked whether or not the EPA model used in support of the recent promulgation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed considered sea level rise (SLR). It was assumed that the model did not incorporate SLR. Department of Agriculture is concerned because of the potential burden of nutrient reduction efforts on agricultural practices.

### *Logistical Details and Process*

With respect to the group's preferred communication method; blogs, wiki's and other internet based applications were mentioned but are not available or easily established. For now, a simple email list will be utilized.

A doodle poll will be used to schedule the next meeting. Scheduling of subsequent meetings will be discussed at that time. Many seemed to prefer a standing monthly date and time v. scheduling each meeting individually. Monthly meetings are anticipated to be necessary for 12-18 months.

How the group will reach consensus or vote on items/actions was briefly discussed and will be one of the main topics discussed at the next meeting. Committee members will be encouraged to confer with their respective agencies before signing off on any actions.

The question was asked whether the advisory committee was established as statutory requirement. The committee was not established through any legislative process or executive order. The group was formed by DNREC Secretary O'Mara to ensure that the sea level rise planning process addressed stakeholder concerns and received input from agencies and organizations Statewide. The advisory committee will be tasked with formulating a blue print of options to address SLR issues and concerns. The committee will then prioritize these options. Implementation strategies and potential funding sources will be identified.

It was emphasized by several state agency members that getting executive and legislative support for policies addressing Sea Level Rise is essential. Without clear guidance and support from the Governor and General Assembly, state agencies will not make the controversial decisions that adapting to SLR will require. (change submitted by Mike Kirkpatrick)

It was agreed that public education and outreach would be a necessary component to the adaptation plan. Public workshops in each county might be helpful. DelDOT and WILMAPCO are agencies that were cited as having considerable experience and success with this strategy. It was confirmed that the adaptation planning process will involve a targeted outreach component.

In an effort to keep the adaptation planning process as transparent as possible, the advisory group meetings will be open to the public. The agreed upon process will be that the public is welcome to attend but public comment will be restricted to the last 15 minutes of the meeting. Further, presentations, agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted to the web in a timely fashion and available for public view. Whether or not to issue press releases on meetings/activities was a question brought up but unresolved.

#### *Committee Membership*

Some members felt that each county should have a representative on the committee. It was suggested that inviting each county administrator would be appropriate. Whether or not to invite members of the General Assembly was also discussed. It was suggested that the chairs of the natural resources and agriculture committees would be appropriate. The Speaker of the House could be contacted to pass on to committee chairs when appointed (expected to be appointed by late December). Secretary O'Mara would have to approve any additions to the Sea Level Advisory Committee.

The committee agreed to invite two members of the General Assembly and the Administrator of each county to participate on the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee. Delaware Coastal Programs staff will work with Secretary O'Mara to get this accomplished.

#### *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) process*

The group expressed an interest in more information on the FEMA process; what triggers a "buy-out" of property; insurance rate calculations; accuracy of the flood maps; means to improve the process and alert public to possible future flood conditions, etc., and how the sea level rise adaptation planning and FEMA process will interact. Delaware Coastal Programs staff will ask an expert on the FEMA process to talk at a future meeting.

#### *Public Comment*

No comments were made during the public comment period of the meeting.

#### *Next Meeting:*

The next meeting of the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee will be December 16, from 9 – 12 at the St. Jones Reserve.